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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
High-level Panel Meeting on
Island Developing Countries
22-23 April 1996
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Overview of the performance and problems of island developing countries (IDCs), particularly in the external trade sector
4. Trade liberalization and globalization: basic issues and problems relevant to IDCs
5. Impact of trade liberalization and globalization on the specialization prospects of IDCs
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report of the High-level Panel on IDCs

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

The High-level Panel on Island Developing Countries is convened pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 49/100 of 19 December 1994. The terms of reference of the Panel are to discuss the challenges faced by island developing countries , particularly in the area of external trade, and to assist the Commission on Sustainable Development in its review of the implementation of the Programme of Action agreed at the Barbados Conference. The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is invited to organize the Panel in cooperation with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. The panel is composed of representatives from various regions: Caribbean, Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Ocean. There are also representatives from relevant international and intergovernmental organizations. The results of the Panel will be submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session which will be held in New York from 18 April to 3 May 1996.

Item 1: Election of officers

1. The Panel may wish to elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda in section I above has been prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat on the basis of the mandate given to the Panel by the General Assembly resolution, taking into consideration the current critical international trade issues and their impact on the trade performance and prospects of island developing countries.

3. The following proposals are made with regard to the organization of work for the two-day Panel. There will be two meetings a day, morning and afternoon, with interpretation facilities in all languages. Immediately after the adoption of the agenda in the morning of 22 April, it is suggested that the rest of the day be devoted to an exchange of views on the issues related to agenda items 3 to 5. The conclusions and recommendations of the Panel will be considered in the course of the morning of the second day, 23 April, and adopted in the afternoon of the same day.

Item 3: Overview of the performance and problems of island developing countries (IDCs), particularly in the external trade sector

Item 4: Trade liberalization and globalization: basic issues and problems relevant to IDCs

and

Item 5: Impact of trade liberalization and globalization on the specialization prospects of IDCs

4. For consideration of these three items, the Panel will have before it a basic paper prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat, entitled "Development challenges facing island developing countries: basic issues and prospects in the context of trade liberalization and globalization" (E/CN.17/1996/IDC/2 - UNCTAD/LLDC/IDC/2). This paper first provides an overview of the special needs and problems of IDCs, particularly in the external trade sector. It then analyzes the main features of trade liberalization and globalization and their relevance for IDCs. The paper also looks into the implications of these

developments for the trade performance of IDCs. Finally, the paper puts forward policy conclusions and recommendations for future action designed to improve the external trade prospects of IDCs.

5. In addition to the above basic paper, the following background documents will be made available to the Panel:

- Two regional papers, entitled, respectively, "Trade issues and development prospects of island developing countries of the Caribbean" (E/CN.17/1996/IDC/Misc.1 - UNCTAD/LLDC/IDC/Misc.1) and "Trade issues and development prospects of island developing countries of the Pacific" (E/CN.17/1996/IDC/Misc.2 - UNCTAD/LLDC/IDC/Misc.2) (English only). These papers, which were prepared by two UNCTAD consultants, will focus on the specific trade-related experiences and needs of the respective regions.

- "Island Developing Countries: Trade issues and Sustainable Economic Development". This report ((E/CN.17/1996/IDC/Misc.3 - UNCTAD/LLDC/IDC/Misc.3, which is in English only, is a comprehensive compendium of UNCTAD's work on issues related to the particular needs and problems of IDCs.

Item 6: Other business

Item 7: Adoption of the report of the High-level Panel on IDCs